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ART METAL WORK

As a rule, the amateur art metal work of the present day is something so grotesquely artistic that the cause of its lack of popularity is easily explained. The debased work known as Venetian bent iron work, has no other object to fulfil than to engage the attention of amateurs who find time hanging heavy on their hands. If art metal work is to take its rightful place amongst the industrial arts of the future, the greatest attention must be given to beauty of design, before construction is attempted. When one considers the enormous adaptability of wrought iron, brass and copper, which freely lend themselves to the execution of the most difficult as well as the most simple of decorative schemes, the wonder is that so few really meritorious designs have put in their appearance to guide the unsophisticated efforts of the amateur. Mr. Herbert Pepper is a designer who thoroughly appreciates the vast and untrodden

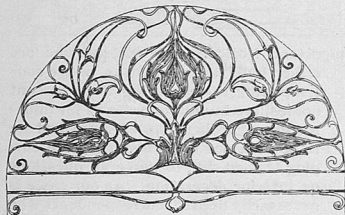


Fig. 1—Grille for a Fanlight in Copper and Brass.
By H. Pepper.

field that exists for designs in metal work that are at once artistic and simple in their composition, and therefore easy of reproduction. He has the courage to break through conventional ideas in this important branch of decorative art, and his four designs on the present page are, it will be admitted, well worthy the attention of our readers. There is nothing affected or impossible in the execution of these really beautiful conceptions, which have been prepared with a view of being executed with economy of labor and material. Figure 1 is a grille for a fan-light over a door, to be executed in copper and brass, and Fig. 2 is a grille for a portiere in wrought iron and copper. It will be seen that the lines are ingeniously suggestive of well-known Persian forms, and the hint here given opens quite a mine of wealth to the intelligent designer. Fig. 1 is designed, by reason of its compact details, as a protection for glass. Fig. 2 is particularly suited to its purpose of simply decorating an unfilled space above a curtain of richly-figured texture.

These two designs introduced to our notice another specialty of Mr. Pepper's work, namely,

the combination of strongly contrasting metals. To a very limited extent this has already been tried in the matter of lamps and kettle-stands in

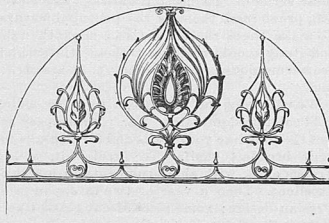


Fig. 2—Grille for a Portiere in Wrought Iron Copper. By H. Pepper.

copper and wrought iron; but no deliberate attempt has yet been made in the United States to work out all the possibilities of light and shade, which are latent in smoked, stained, or burnished wrought metal. It is impossible to give any adequate rendering in mere black and white of an effect in which color is an essential part; and this must be kept in mind in considering those designs which are intended for execution in two metals. That they should stand the severe test of reduction to simple line, is no

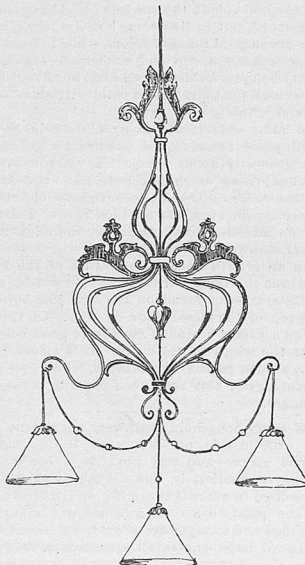


Fig. 3—Electrolier in Wrought Iron.

slight evidence of their intrinsic method. The remaining designs will speak best for themselves. Fig. 3 is an electrolier in wrought iron, and Fig. 4 is a tavern sign in iron and copper.

These designs, while extremely simple, are nevertheless, the result of a long and careful study from the point of view of a practical man, of the iron work of various countries and periods, taking careful note of peculiarities of technique, as well as of design, thus laying the only possible foundation on which such work can be built. Any tyro who imagines he can create such designs "out of his head," without such preliminary study, will find himself grievously disappointed.

PARAGRAPHS FOR THE HOME MAKER.

By Mrs. O. B. B.

THE grate, which in every room is considered a bugbear, particularly when not used, can be made an object of beauty, if only artistic schemes are studied. Stand at one side a bronze jug, or some narrow-necked vase, in which place a huge palm leaf. This, with a brass fire set and low jardiniere, will quite set off the whole affair.

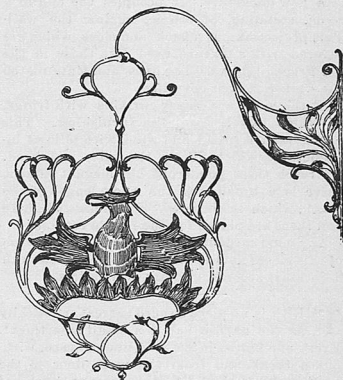


Fig. 4—Tavern Sign in Iron and Copper.
By H. Pepper.

PEACOCK feathers have been long used as a means of decoration, but, for the low side-board, they are wonderfully effective. Group them in a half circular form, letting the tall one do duty for the middle, graduating towards the end. With an oak buffet they are positively striking, and look well in contrast for this special wood.

THE "chaise longue" or reclining chair-bed is now one of the principal features of decorations in artistic homes. It is a long sofa with a head board. On it is placed a thin feather bed and a hugh pillow which comes to match in covering, the tones and pattern of the style of Louis the Fourteenth. This chair is of wicker, and is a comfortable place for lounging in an afternoon siesta.

THE old-fashioned packing box is a fine scheme for a wash-stand, or dressing bureau, or table, and when trimmed with some

colored silesia, over which can be draped swiss or lace in good patterns. They are exceedingly pretty in any room, especially for young girls. Silver should be the ware selected for brushes and other toilet accessories. It gives a brilliancy for the broad cover, and is excellent in ornamentation for the decorative device.

A PRETTY compliment to a friend who is near one in companionship, is to have a photograph framed to match the wood of the bedstead on which she sleeps. Place the photograph on the head board. Let it not be too large, and then drape your bed with curtain at sides. The English chintzes are greatly used for these objects. An iron frame can be made by some upholsterer who understands his business. This gives a fine focus to any room except the small apartment, which needs folding beds to economize space.

THE Japanese umbrella does excellent duty, where a lounge is the principal feature of a room. The divan itself should be covered with a rug or silk covering. Six or eight pillows charmingly treated with different designs in silk, will complete this arrangement in good taste.

By a large hook in the wall, the umbrella can be fastened and secured most firmly, while the handle can be decorated by sprays of paper in artificial flowers, securing this long piece of wood. These vines can be festooned on the inside of the umbrella or large parasol, and give quite good treatment if artistically finished. One or two Japanese bees, or bugs of good size, form a capital decoration for this scheme if placed near the flowers.

For a grand, cosy corner, the canopied divan is a new departure. It occupies the end of a room, standing, of course, against the wall. This projection has a back and sides, which are covered with a texture used like those in the old French regime. The hues and tints match the walls and floor coverings.

At the sides are heavy curtains with fringe, of which tassels form the furnishing. This couch itself is broad and wide, with pillows innumerable, which fill up the sides and head. To reach these ponderous but elegant affairs, there is a broad step, the whole length of the couch, which is carpeted. Small hassocks here and there are placed for the foot to rest on.

Any good carpenter can make the foundation of this clever device, and the home woman can decorate it according to her own desires.

THERE is no place so hard to treat artistically as the narrow hall in a small apartment. Every one knows it is a long line of space, without a break, and from the main door to the kitchen door, which is within view at the end of the hall, to the home-maker it is an eyesore.

In the middle of this hall place a pole, in which thick curtains can be adjusted by rings and hooks, so, when necessary, it can be drawn together, screening the working room beyond.

To utilize a small space near the main door, let the chest of drawers find a place there. With good decorating, it will be equal to the occasion. For a background a large palm leaf forms an excellent scheme.

In draping the top of these drawers, scarfs of rich colors, in graceful lines, are, without question, good. In the middle place a tall vase. At side a lamp will do duty in lighting this narrow space. And, when finished, you will be surprised how charming all these hints will be.

FOR decorating rooms the ways are endless. Every kind of hanging shelf, even the long-used brackets and cabinets, still hold their own, and if well placed are quite a feature in any apartment. The long and broad shelf is a novel idea, the shelf itself being made of mahogany or cherry. It is fastened to the walls by brackets,

and is about four feet from the ceiling. Over a lounge or long narrow table it does excellent duty. Between the underside of the shelf to the top of the piece of furniture below the shelf there should be a bit of old tapestry, rich in color, which quite connects this admirable scheme. To ornament the shelf, an Egyptian vase with peacock feathers makes a good study. In the middle place a low jardiniere, jugs in quiet tints, in fact, any object of good form will complete this clever plan. Above the shelf a pretty water color or sketch in black or white should ornament the wall. And, to make it more elaborate, some bits of china, such as cups or small plaques, hung on hooks on the edge of the shelf, will be effective.

EVERY room has a mantel-piece with shelves and grate, at least if they are of any size. Even all the inferior apartments boast of one, in their best room. Generally the mantel in these series of "connecting closets," as a clever wag pronounced them, is the principal feature. To make these shelves artistic, much thought and study should be given to them—tints which are harmonious in color; effects that are striking.

We will take, for instance, a room in which gold color predominates. For your drapery select the tone like your walls and furnishings for your broadest shelf. To furnish it, a low French clock with side ornaments to match is excellent. Then a vase or two in Japanese or Persian design; some piece of cut glass, like a tall candle-stick, whose brilliancy is most desirable. On the side shelves should be jugs in low tones, while the top shelf, which is always narrow, is a receptacle for odd cups and saucers on stands. Underneath the broad shelf is a narrow projection, which serves well for an unframed picture in oil, some striking subject, which, on entering the room, forms a charming focus.

ALL small bookcases should have silk curtains which can be fastened at the top, with brass rods and rests. There are a variety of stuffs which, as curtains, are excellent for these objects, such as Calcutta prints, Liberty chintz, Persian prints and London corduroys. On the main shelf, the one to which the curtain is fastened, put in line some books whose bindings are in good tones of colors, while in front of them arrange a cup and saucer on stand, a pretty bouquet-holder or an easel of olive wood on which a photograph of a child will stand out in bold relief.

In some apartments many closets in these small places run along the one narrow hall, and are generally about three feet wide. They are used as clothes-presses or china-closets, and sometimes a store-room for trunks. Above these closets is generally an open space which can be utilized as an excellent receptacle for bundles and other stowaway articles.

In an artist's home, this feature of the hall has been charmingly treated. A thin wooden rod is fastened at each end on the wall just beyond the top of the closet door by rests. On this is hung a pretty cretonne curtain in good colors just the width of the space. This clever idea was a boon to the housekeeper, who knew the advantage of this tuck-away place in her small domain.

IN every household and every apartment the artistic side presents itself to the clever home maker—and why not? It is her castle, however small it is, and all means should be exercised to make it charming and interesting.

The possibilities of a place are many of method and thought are given to its decoration.

In all large and small apartments, the transom should be considered either as an ornamentation, or one of the many methods of purifying the rooms, by letting in the air. It can suffice for both. Transoms, in their way, can be beautifully treated by different artistic schemes.

In the first place, a transom should be knocked down so as to form a shelf. The French nail, if

well driven, will quite secure this long and narrow window.

When securely done, place on it either a very thin board, or some heavy cardboard, so as to make the surface thoroughly even. When commenced and dressed your device, of which there are quite a number of ways.

Scarfs of every color or silks in good tones can be draped in graceful lines. But these scarfs and silks should by all means match the colorings of the rooms or be in harmony with the prevailing hues of walls or floor coverings.

On these transom shelves place a jug in flowering or flowing designs. A bowl of Russian or Japanese ware does excellent duty. Let there not be too many objects, if so, your effects will be lost. If your transom, for some reason, should be closed, a picture in water color or oil to fit the transom entire will be a charming addition, but it should be simply framed. These pictures can be draped at top and sides with a bit of silk in which neutral tints predominate.

In a small apartment, for the main door, the transom can be decorated by a brass plaque in which a knight, king or lady of past centuries will form an artistic dealing. Any transom will look well if draped in silk of the colors of old blue or old rose. Even a Persian design suits well the purpose. In these colors hang a large plate or plaque of Dutch delf, the blue effect making a wonderful scheme. These plaques can be adjusted by two brass hooks that take up the object and hold it securely.

For a dining room transom, quaint jugs, Japanese fans or an onari bowl of grotesque figures are good as decorations. Every drapery of this project should be of a subdued tint, and of a pure and silky texture.



Important Notice. Our readers who are either building new houses, or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes, are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions on interior decoration. As our space is necessarily limited, correspondents who do not receive a reply in this department will be replied to by mail by the Editor.

PAINTING, DECORATING AND FURNISHING AN OLD-COLONIAL STYLE HOUSE.

BRANFORD, CONN., October 12, 1894.

EDITOR THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER,

Dear Sir:—In your journal you invite your readers to write for information concerning harmonious coloring to be used in decorating and furnishing houses. Accordingly I enclose plans of our new house, which will be finished in about a month, hoping that you may be able to help me. The house is old Colonial in style, and very plain and simple. On the first floor we are to have hard wood (maple) floors. The parlor and library are finished in cherry, the hall in oak, and the sewing-room and dining-room in sycamore. The kitchen and second floor are finished in natural cypress. At the midway landing of the stairs and upper hall there are to be two leaded glass windows having borrowed light only. What would you suggest for the coloring of these? I would be very glad if you would kindly help me in this difficult matter of harmonious coloring and furnishing.

Sincerely yours, MRS. L. S. WARD.